

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today announced that over \$2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant funding will be used to expand Orange County Head Start (OCHS). The funding is designated for OCHS's Early Head Start program, which provides pre- and post-natal health and development services for infants, toddlers, and their families.

"As a product of Head Start, I know how important it is to encourage early childhood education and development," said Rep. Sanchez. "Study after study suggests that the nutrition and education our children receive in their earliest years directly affects their future success. And no child, regardless of their parents' economic circumstances, should be denied a healthy, happy start in life.

"I am proud that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which I voted for, is providing this type of critical federal funding to our local communities. There is no doubt that this grant will have a positive impact on the lives and futures of many Orange County families and children."

OCHS is a comprehensive child development program that provides education, health, and nutrition services to over 3,500 Orange County children and their families. The children and parents who enroll in Head Start leave more confident in their ability to learn and to succeed later in life.

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